



## ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

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Dear Friends:

Let me tell you about an exciting project I have been working on at Environmental Defense for the past two years. I have been providing assistance to Restore Hetch Hetchy, a not-for-profit organization that is endeavoring to do what its name implies: Restore the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park.

You are probably aware there are two major rivers in Yosemite National Park. Each river once boasted a magnificent glacier-carved valley. Yosemite Valley lies along the Merced River, and includes a number of the world's most famous "rocks", such as Half Dome and El Capitan, and waterfalls, including Vernal, Nevada, Bridalveil and Yosemite Falls. The Hetch Hetchy Valley along the Tuolumne River is lesser known, not because it lacks Sierra granite or waterfalls, but because it lies under 300 feet of water behind the O'Shaughnessy Dam. Restore Hetch Hetchy hopes to find a way to remove the dam and restore the valley to its former splendor.

O'Shaughnessy Dam is a critical piece of the water delivery system for San Francisco and other Bay Area cities and also makes possible significant hydropower generation. As part of its effort, Restore Hetch Hetchy is committed to finding a "win-win" solution that will not diminish the use of water and power in the Bay Area or the San Joaquin Valley. Preliminary analysis suggests that there are other options for water delivery and power generation, and Environmental Defense supports Restore Hetch Hetchy's quest for a comprehensive public feasibility study to fully evaluate alternatives.

I hope that you will take the time to find out more about the effort to restore the Hetch Hetchy Valley. One way is to visit the Restore Hetch Hetchy website at <http://www.hetchhetchy.org/>. Also, I have asked Restore Hetch Hetchy to send you an invitation to a complimentary reception on March 9, 2002 at 5 P.M. at Galen Rowell's Mountain Light Gallery (1466 66<sup>th</sup> Street in Emeryville). Come to meet the Restore Hetch Hetchy Board, learn about their activities and share their excitement.

All my best,

Spreck Rosekrans  
Senior Analyst